REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 11-15, 17, 19 and 22-42 are pending in this application. Claims 2-4, 11-15, 17, 19, and 22-42 have been rejected. Claims 43-47 are withdrawn from consideration in the pending matter. Claims 5-10, 16, 18, 20-21 have been previously cancelled. Claim 29 is cancelled. The response amends claim 13.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated May 23, 2008, are respectfully requested. Support for the amendments is found in the specification, the drawings, and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 13

The Examiner has objected to claim 13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims. Claim 13 has been amended accordingly.

Applicant submits that claim 13 is now allowable and thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claim 13.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 2-4, 11-12, 14-15, 17, 19, 22-42

The Examiner has rejected claims 2-4, 11-12. 14-15, 17, 19, 22-42 (Claim 29 has been cancelled) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Gupta, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,513,059.) in view of Kroenke, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,297) in further view of Bigelow, et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 5,408,657). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The cited references do not show each and every element as recited in the independent claim 2

Applicant respectfully submits that when viewed as a whole or individually, the cited references do not show the subject matter recited in the pending claims.

> "To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)."

Applicant's independent claims 2 and 38 include claimed subject matter neither taught nor suggested by Gupta, Kroenke, and Bigelow when viewed alone or in combination. Therefore, Applicant's independent claims are patentable over the references.

For example, the method in claim 2 includes:

> receiving an indicator to create a semantic object to represent a target referent;
>
> *determining whether an object type of the target referent is a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity;*
>
> *identifying a semantic object type for the semantic object suitable to represent the object type of the target referent;*
>
> creating the semantic object of the semantic object type …, …; wherein the plurality of meta-tags comprises a predetermined set of meta-tags …; and

associating the meta-tag of the plurality of meta-tags with metadata; ... definable by an ontology. (*Emphasis Added*, Claim 2)

Reference 'Gupta'

Gupta discusses a system and method for facilitating exchange of information on a computer network. The system of Gupta provides one or more context trees, with each tree including two or more connected nodes, each node being associated with one or more selected node objects (Abstract, Gupta).

The combination of nodes in Gupta form a context tree where concepts evolve from a root node toward its node members, where each node member further specializes the concept.

For example, in Gupta:

> *"When viewed as a hierarchical structure, in a context tree, concepts evolve from a root node towards its member, **where each member further specializes the concept**. Hence, in Awit spaces, each individual context tree has a local knowledge base" (Gupta Col. 14, lines 15-20)*

Therefore, the nodes of Gupta are limited to representation of node objects that are 'concepts' per se. Consequently, Gupta's nodes do not have varying 'types' suitable to semantically represent target referents of varying 'types'.

Applicant's claim 2 recites "determining an **object type** of the target referent (which can be a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity (e.g., concept))" and identifying suitable "**semantic object type**" for representation of the target referent. Gupta has no need for this since each context tree represents a particular specialized concept where each node forms a hierarchical structure that represents the hierarchy between related concepts.

Further, Gupta does not disclose creating a semantic object. The Examiner acknowledges this. The Examiner states that "Gupta fails to explicitly disclose creating the semantic object of

the semantic object type to represent the target referent." (Page 4 of Office Action mailed May 23, 2008).

Reference 'Kroenke'

Kroenke does not disclose or suggest the features/functionalities that (as discussed above) are missing from Gupta. In particular, Kroenke also does not teach or suggest "determining an **object type** of the target referent (which can be a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity (e.g., concept))" and identifying suitable "**semantic object type**" for representation of the target referent.

The Examiner acknowledges this. The Examiner states that "the combination of Gupta/Kroenke fails to disclose in detail determining whether an object type of the target referent is a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity." (Page 5 of Office Action mailed May 23, 2008).

Applicant further submits that Kroenke does not disclose, suggest, or motivate meta-tags and metadata associated with the semantic object, "wherein at least one of, the meta-tag of the plurality of meta-tags and the metadata associated with the meta-tag is definable in an ontology", as claimed by applicant in independent claim 2.

Therefore, without admitting to the propriety of the combination as suggested by the Examiner, even if Gupta and Kroenke were combined, the resulting disclosure would be different from the subject matter disclosed by the applicant in independent claim 2, at least for the above stated reasons. Thus, applicant submits that independent claim 2 is patentable over Gupta, Kroenke, and over the combination of Gupta and Kroenke.

Bigelow does not cure the deficiency.

Reference 'Bigelow'

Bigelow discusses a method of imposing multi-object constraints on data files in a data processing system. The invention of Bigelow relates to data processing systems of the type which include various data file; and more particularly, it relates to computer implemented methods for imposing multi-object constraints on updates to such data files (Background, Bigelow).

The Examiner states that "Bigelow discloses determining whether an object type of the target referent is a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method Gupta/Kroenke as disclosed by Bigelow."

Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The "objects" of Bigelow are merely entries of text in a data field. The "objects" of Bigelow are not "semantic objects" and are unrelated to "semantic objects", as claimed by applicant. The representation made by the "objects" of Bigelow is not a semantic representation. Thus, the "objects" of Bigelow, has no associated "semantic object type", as claimed by applicant.

Rather, the representation made by "objects" in Bigelow is merely a **literal translation** of the text in the relevant data field (see, for example, **FIG. 1** of Bigelow).

For example, in Bigelow:

> *"In the FIG. 1 example, each file is arranged as a matrix of rows and columns; an object heads each column; and respective attributes are in each row." (Col. 2, lines 65-68)*
>
> *In file 21, the file objects are employees E1, E2 ... of some particular company." (Col. 3 lines 1-2, FIG. 1)*
>
> *In file 22, the file objects are the company's managers M1, M2 ..." (Col. 3 lines 9-10, FIG. 1)*

In file 23, the file objects are projects P1, P2... " (Col. 3 lines 16-17, FIG. 1)

As can be seen, Bigelow does not disclose or teach "semantic objects". In fact, Bigelow does not disclose any data structure beyond a text-based data file with rows and columns.

Applicant's claim 2 recites "determining an **object type** of the target referent (which can be a physical entity, a digital object, or an intangible entity (e.g., concept))" and identifying suitable "**semantic object type**" for representation of the target referent.

Bigelow has no need for this since the representations that occur are literal translations of the text in the data fields.

Therefore, without admitting to the propriety of the combination as suggested by the Examiner, even if Gupta, Kroenke, and Bigelow were combined, the resulting disclosure would be different from the subject matter disclosed by the applicant in independent claim 2, at least for the above stated reasons. Thus, applicant submits that independent claim 2 is patentable over Gupta, Kroenke, and Bigelow and over the combination of Gupta, Kroenke, and Bigelow.

Similar rationale and arguments can be applied to independent claim 38. However, the Examiner neglected to provide detailed analysis of the basis of rejection of claim 38 in view of Gupta, Kroenke, and Bigelow. The Examiner applied the same line of reasoning of claim 2 to claim 38 even though the subject matter in claim 38 is different from that of claim 2.

Dependent Claims

In view of the above remarks, a specific discussion of the dependent claims is considered to be unnecessary. Therefore, applicant's silence regarding any dependent claim is not to be interpreted as agreement with, or acquiescence to, the rejection of such claim or as waiving any argument regarding that claim. Therefore, the remaining dependent claims are also patentable over the cited references. The withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested for claims 2-4, 11-15, 17, 19, 22-28, and 30-37 and 39-42.

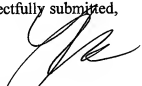
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and the preceding arguments, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned counsel at (650) 838-4306 to arrange for such a conference.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment in fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2207.

Respectfully submitted,



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